



THE BULLETIN BOARD

NEWSLETTER OF CITIZENS FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

Volume 48, No. 1
August 2014

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A Snapshot of the 2014 Legislative Session

The *Required Services* program was appropriated its largest increase in many years at the 2014 legislative session. Rep. Jack Montoucet of Crowley succeeded in adding \$1 Million to the program in the Appropriations Bill (HB1) which brought the total budget item for *Required Services* to nearly \$15.3 Million (see table). This program reimburses schools for costs incurred for services required by state law, rule or regulation. We thank Rep. Montoucet and Sen. Jack Donahue of Mandeville for their efforts in support of this increase.

There were attempts to derail the statewide scholarship program by requiring unnecessary bureaucratic intrusion into scholarship schools by the office of the Legislative Auditor, and by eliminating students in "C" rated public schools from voucher program eligibility. These attempts were defeated—resulting in more parents being allowed to choose where to educate their children.



At least two legislators challenged the authority of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association. One proposed a bill to prohibit public schools from membership in any interscholastic extracurricular athletic association or organization which did not provide for third-party arbitration of eligibility issues. This measure passed and was signed into law (Act 476). Another proposed a bill—which failed—that would have stripped LHSAA of its traditional venue—the Superdome—for football championship playoff games as long as schools were split into *select* and *nonselect* categories.



The Jindal administration succeeded in transferring oversight and administration of licensing and regulation of early learning centers from the Department of Children and Family Services to the Louisiana Department of Education (Act 868). Two members from BESE's Nonpublic School Council will be selected to sit on the newly created Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education. The council will provide input and guidance to BESE and LDE on matters pertaining to the development and implementation of rules, regulations, bulletins, policies or standards related to all publicly funded early care and education programs.

CEC Welcomes New Executive Director

Robert M. Tasman assumed the position of CEC's executive director on July 1, 2014. Rob served previously as associate director since joining the staff in February of 2008.

A native of New York, Rob completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at Boston College, and holds a B.A. in Communications and Theology and a M.A. in Christian Social Ethics. Following his move to Baton Rouge he earned a Juris Doctor from LSU.

He has experience in education having taught full-time at the high school level for three years and part-time for four years as well. Rob has also authored, reviewed, and taught adult continuing education and formation courses for the Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Asked about his new role with CEC Rob enthusiastically stated, "I am very excited to have the opportunity not only to represent private and parochial schools in the legislative process, but also to serve as a strong voice for educational choice in general. Choosing how and where to educate our most cherished gifts—our children—is critical to our role as responsible parents and guardians. Without this freedom, which CEC strongly advocates, a sense of helplessness and confinement can fester. I pledge to do my part as an educator, parent and now executive director of this great organization to ensure that all parents in Louisiana have a choice in the education of their children."



FY 2014-15 State Funding for Nonpublic School Programs

\$ 46,184,852	Statewide Scholarship Program
15,292,704	Required Services
7,917,607	School Nutrition Salary Supplements
6,882,236	Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development
2,911,843	Textbooks
3,047,614	Education Excellence Trust Funds
952,090	8g Program
376,000	Scholarships for Students with Exceptionalities
171,865	Textbook Administration
\$ 83,736,811	SUBTOTAL

VALUE OF STATE TAX EXEMPTIONS

\$ 17,700,000	Tuition Tax Deduction
2,400,000	Textbooks, Computers and Audio/Visuals
411,000	School Nutrition Programs
\$ 20,511,000	SUBTOTAL
\$ 104,247,811	GRAND TOTAL



2014-15 Membership Campaign

As we begin our 48th year, we urge your support by remitting annual membership dues. Two membership cards are included with this newsletter, one for the school and one for the parent or booster club, alumni association or church. (If your school has already remitted please disregard.)
State funding programs didn't just happen; they were made to happen! Join CEC today!